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The TV Column

By John Carmody

A former baby sitter for NBC correspondent Chris Wallace's son, Peter, landed grandpa Mike Wallace a considerable scoop for Sunday's "60 Minutes" . . .

Wallace and producer Barry Lando spent three hours last weekend with fugitive former CIA agent Frank Terpil and his colleague Gary Korkala in Beirut . . . and about 25 minutes of that interview will be seen this weekend . . .

Terpil fled the United States from an indictment charging him with selling explosives illegally to Libya, setting up a terrorist training school for Libya and arranging an unsuccessful assassination attempt on a Libyan defector in Egypt . . .

He is also believed to have recruited U.S. pilots and mechanics to fly and service airplanes for Col. Muammar Qaddafi, the Libyan dictator . . .

Mike Wallace said yesterday that about a month ago, his grandson's ex-baby sitter (a former U.N. employe in New York) called him from Beirut . . .

She had once operated a restaurant in Beirut that Terpil frequented, and suggested to Wallace he was available for an interview . . .

Wallace, who was probably out at JFK International before she'd managed to hang up, said yesterday that at one point during the interview Terpil picked up the phone and called another old boss . . . former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, now in exile in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia . . . but the Idi aide who answered the phone said Idi was over at the mosque, at prayer . . .